



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on August 19, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at George Hail Library, located at 520 Main Street. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Christine Lichatz, Moe Clare, Mark Lombardi, and Ben Terry. Board members Spencer Morris and Kathleen Tucciarone were absent. Ex officio member Caroline Wells was absent. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting held July 15, 2013

The minutes from the regular meeting held on July 15, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Clare, and all members were in favor.

2. Discussion of National Library Campaign with Pat Redfern from George Hail Library

Ms. Redfern discussed a new campaign called "What do you Geek?" which has been organized to raise awareness for public libraries. She asked the EDB to help promote the campaign as much as possible in the community.

3. Discussion of status of signage zoning ordinance review

Ms. Dionne stated that there is a zoning board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th, 2013. A Water Street restaurant is applying for a variance for a new sign that exceeds the current legal signage requirement. Ms. Dionne asked all board members to attend the meeting.

4. Update of RI Local magazine upcoming Warren advertising section

The board discussed the use of business outreach funds for an advertising page in RI Local Magazine to promote the town of Warren. EDB board members will meet with the advertising coordinator for RI Local Magazine in September to discuss the advertisement which will appear in the October issue. The advertisement will be placed before the Warren Walkabout scheduled for Sunday, October 20, 2013.

5. Update on Town Hall economic development coordinator position

The board discussed the importance of an economic development coordinator for the town of Warren; and more specifically, the need for a communications based individual to develop and maintain the town's website as a marketing tool to promote the town. Ms. Dionne reported that to her best knowledge there was as of yet an official decision on how to fill this position. The board agreed that the position of economic development coordinator needs to be filled promptly and discussed drafting an official recommendation regarding the website. Ms. Dionne stated she would meet with the Town Manager to discuss the status of the position before writing an official letter of recommendation. This item will be placed on the agenda for September.

6. Review and discussion of final draft of the economic section of the Comprehensive Plan (on Planning Board agenda for public discussion August 26, 2013)

The board reviewed the current draft of the economic development section of the Comprehensive Plan and compared it to the economic development section draft from 2010. Overall the board felt that the recent draft was simplified and that the revision made no references to historic zoning and preservation. There will be a public discussion regarding this section at the Planning board meeting scheduled for Monday, August 26th, 2013. The board decided to schedule a special meeting of the EDB to further discuss this issue. Mr. Clare made a motion for a special meeting of the EDB to be held on Thursday, August 22nd at 3 p.m. at Town Hall, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor.

Jonathan Stone was present at the meeting to discuss Main Street and the National Historic Trust. Due to the time, Ms. Dionne asked him to postpone his presentation until the next meeting. If he is available, Mr. Stone will be on the agenda for September.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Lombardi, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
September 19, 2013

